## II.    AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings or versions of claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for calculating charges to customers, comprising:

a database, for managing customer data required for calculating said charges to customers, a type of customer service and a rule set being associated directly to one another within the database;

rule management means, for storing rule sets that, in advance, each define only one charge calculation method that is employed in accordance with a type of customer service that is rendered, wherein the charge calculation method includes at least one rule based instruction for calculating a discount, wherein said at least one rule based instruction references a discount table that includes a discount threshold value; and

calculation means, which, for each different type of customer service provided to a customer, identifies the rule set associated with the type of customer service, and calculates charges for each event belonging to the type of customer service based on the associated rule set, in accordance with the contents of said customer data read from said database.

2. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for calculating charges to customers, comprising:

a database, for managing customer data required for calculating said charges to customers, a type of customer service and a rule set being directly associated to one another within the database;

rule management means, for storing a rule that, in advance, defines only one charge calculation method that is employed in accordance with the type of customer service that is rendered;

a discount table, which is described in said rule that defines a charge calculation method, for storing a charge discount ratio that is employed for said charge calculation in accordance with the type of customer service that is rendered, wherein the discount table further includes a set of change point identifiers and associated discount threshold values, the discount table being separate from said rule; and

calculation means, for, in accordance with the contents of said customer data read from said database, obtaining for a pertinent customer, from said rule management means, said rule that defines a charge calculation method, and for calculating a charge by referring to said charge discount ratio defined in said pertinent rule.

3. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 2, wherein the rule further defines a desired change point identifier.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for calculating charges to customers using a data processing computer system, comprising:

associating a set of rules directly ~~one-to-one~~ with each service type provided by a service provider;

providing a database of customer data, wherein the customer data includes events, and wherein each event belongs to a service type utilized by a customer, the direct association of the set of rules and the service type being established within the database;

identifying the events belonging to a predetermined customer;

analyzing the events to determine what service types were utilized by the predetermined customer; and

for each service type utilized by the predetermined customer, retrieving the associated set of rules from an external place and processing the events belonging to the service type by applying the associated set of rules for the service type.


5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the set of rules associated with each service type includes a discount condition rule and a discount calculation rule.


6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the set of rules associated with each service type further includes a charge calculation rule.